signifying that the sending system is transmitting the digital information over the network to the server system and that the digital information may be accessible by the receiving system at the server system, as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Bobo II discloses:

> ... a message storage and delivery system [(MSDS 10)] receives an incoming call and detects an address signal associated with the incoming call, the address signal being associated with a user of the message storage and delivery system. A message accompanied with the address signal is then received and converted from a first file format to a second file format. The message is stored in the second file format within a storage area and is retrieved after a request has been received from the user. At least a portion of the message is then transmitted to the user over a network with the second file format being a mixed media page layout language. (Col. 4, lines 54-67.)
>
> Preferably, the network storage and delivery system can receive facsimile messages, data messages, or voice messages and the network is the Internet. The messages are converted into hyper-text mark-up language **and the user is notified that a message has arrived through E-mail or through a paging system**. A listing of the facsimile messages may be sent to the user in one of several formats. These formats include a textual only listing or a listing along with a full or reduced size image of the first page of each message. A full or reduced size image of each page of a message in the listing may alternatively be presented to the user. (Col. 5, lines 14-25 (emphasis added).)

Thus, Bobo II sends notification using e-mail or a paging system. However, in marked contrast to the apparatus recited in claim 1, the MSDS 10 (which most closely corresponds to the recited server system) is the portion of the Bobo II system that notifies the user. That is, the MSDS 10 receives/stores the messages (e.g., digital information) **and** sends the notification to the user. In this regard and with reference to Figures 1-3, Bobo II further discloses:

> Prior to gaining access to the mailbox at step 72, the user is preferably sent a greeting page or other such type of information which permits the user to learn about the services provided by the MSDS 10, open an account with the MSDS 10, or gain access to an account. Once access is provided at step 72, the user is provided with information indicating the total number of messages stored in his or her mailbox within the MSDS 10. Preferably, the **information sent by the MSDS 10** indicates the total number of messages for each type of message and also the total number of saved messages versus the total number of new messages. (Col. 7, lines 57-67.)
>
> When a new message is received at step 54 in FIG. 2, the user's mailbox is updated to display the total number and types of messages. The MSDS 10 might also update other files in addition to the total listing of messages. **Additionally, at this time, the MSDS 10 sends an E-mail message to the user's computer 32 to inform the user of the newly arrived message. The MSDS 10 could also send notice to the user.**

through a paging system so that the user receives almost instantaneous notice that a message is received. (Col. 7, lines 57-67 (emphasis added).)

Applicants note that additional information regarding the notification sent by the MSDS 10, and the detailed structure of the MSDS 10, is disclosed at Figures 13-15 and Col. 17, lines 6-35.

As such, Bobo II does not disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Specifically, Bobo II does not disclose or suggest "a sending system connected to the network and transmitting a notification to the receiving system, the notification signifying that the sending system is transmitting the digital information over the network to the server system and that the digital information may be accessible by the receiving system at the server system," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and claims 2 and 5-11, which depend from claim 1.

Claims 3, 4 and 12, which depend from claim 1, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II in view of Masters (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,930). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims because Masters does not remedy the failure of Bobo II to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

Masters discloses a technique for balancing loads between email servers within a local area network. A cost is assigned to each potential message route between the sites in an electronic messaging system, and a weight is calculated for each potential message route based on its assigned cost. A message route between the two sites is chosen based on the collective calculated weights. (Col. 2, lines 18-34.) Like Bobo II, Masters in no way describes or suggests "a sending system connected to the network and transmitting a notification to the receiving system, the notification signifying that the sending system is transmitting the digital information over the network to the server system and that the digital information may be accessible by the receiving system at the server system," as recited in claim 1.

Claims 13-15

Independent claim 13 recites to an electronic parcel delivery system that includes a server system, a sending system, and a receiving system in communication with the server system and the sending system. Similarly to claim 1, the sending system transmits digital information to the server system and a notification to the receiving system, with the notification signifying to the

receiving system that the sending system has transmitted the digital information to the server system. The receiving system, in response to the notification, can access the server system to obtain the digital information.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bobo II. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, because Bobo II fails to describe or suggest that the sending system transmits digital information to the server system and a notification to the receiving system.

Claims 14 and 15, which depend from claim 13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II in view of Masters. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 3, 4 and 12.

Claims 16-32

Similarly to claim 1, independent claim 16 recites an electronic parcel delivery method that includes transmitting digital information from the sending system to a server system over the network, storing transmitted digital information at the storage device, and transmitting a notification from the sending system to the receiving system.

Claims 16, 17, 19, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bobo II. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-32, which depend from claim 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II in view of Masters (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,930). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 3, 4 and 12.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-32. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-32 are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is a check for the fee for a one month extension of the time to respond. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2001

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